



NEWS RELEASE

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'IRON RANGERS' REFURBISH HISTORICAL DISPLAY

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

A while ago, Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, noticed some faded photos encased in rotting wooden frames under an awning on Range 3 at Fort Riley. The Soldiers had plenty of time to notice the display's deteriorating condition because that's where they've spent their time for much of the past nine months.

The "Iron Rangers," who have been completing intensive training exercises on the ranges in preparation for deployment, decided to say a big "thank you" to Range Control by replacing the worn boards and updating the photos at the memorial site, said Lt. Col. Frank Zachar, the battalion's commander.

"We've been able to put more rounds downrange than any other battalion," Zachar said about his battalion's past year. "We've had the luxury of being able to train uninterrupted."

Zachar credited Range Control with helping the "Iron Rangers" train successfully. "We've never been held back by range support," he said. "We've only been helped."

In a short ceremony May 3, Zachar and Range Control Officer Lee Breidenstein, "christened" the refurbished area.

The Range Control employees supported the Soldiers during their regular training by setting up many non-standard ranges for platoon and squad live fire exercises, Bradley Table XII gunnery and some special training efforts, Zachar said.

For the "christening," Zachar and Breidenstein added a portrait of Maj. Harry Lispenard Kimmell to the board. The board is dedicated to Kimmell, a 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., commander who was deployed to France with the regiment during World War I.

A decorated 1st Infantry Division Soldier, Kimmell was killed in France on Oct. 9, 1918. A plaque set in stone in front of the newly framed photos reads, "Maj. Kimmell's action

exemplified the proud origins of the division motto: No mission too difficult; No sacrifice too great; Duty first!"

Because of Kimmell's link to the "Iron Rangers," the project was perfect for the Soldiers to undertake as a thank you, Zachar said. Besides refurbishing Kimmell's photos, the "Iron Rangers" also updated the board by adding photos from Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. The previous photos went through Vietnam.

Kimmell's portrait was the last photo added before the blue-framed glass cover was screwed into place, expected to protect the memorial from the Kansas weather for at least another 10 years.